

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	
)	CONSENT ORDER OF
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of)	
)	SUSPENSION
Kelly D. Zabel)	
)	
Certificate 204682)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 11, 2006. On June 29, 2006, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Kelly D. Zabel a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 204682 by regular and certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. Upon receipt of that letter, Ms. Zabel initially requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to accept the suspension of her certificate for a ten-month period, with the understanding that Ms. Zabel has initiated and will continue mental health counseling, as determined to be appropriate by a licensed mental health care provider. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to order the suspension of Ms. Zabel's certificate for the agreed upon period, subject to the conditions specified in this Order.

Kelly D.
Zabel,
Certificate
204682

Initial Here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Zabel holds a South Carolina certificate with over five years of teaching experience. During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Zabel was employed by Anderson County School District One, assigned as a Learning Disabled Resource teacher at Palmetto Middle School. On May 16, 2005, Ms. Zabel resigned from the District following allegations that she had developed personal

relationships with students that exceeded appropriate levels of professional conduct.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Zabel’s certificate through August 10, 2007. If Ms. Zabel wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must provide the Department’s Office of General Counsel with verification from a licensed mental health care provider that she has completed or is continuing mental health counseling, as recommended by the mental health care provider, and she must appear before the State Board for a character fitness review.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/Joe Isaac

Joe Isaac

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

October 11, 2006

I, Kelly D. Zabel, S.C. Educator Certificate 204682, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on October 11, 2006.

/S/Kelly D. Zabel

Kelly D. Zabel

Date